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EXTRAORDINARY.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1794.

Admiralty-Office, June 10.

SIR Roger Curtis, First Captain to the Admiral Earl Howe, arrived this Evening with a Diſpatch from his Lordſhip to Mr. Stephens, of which the following is a Copy.

Queen Charlotte at Sea, June 2, 1794.
Uſhant, E. Half N. 140 Leagues.

SIR,

THINKING it may not be neceſſary to make a more particular Report of my Proceedings with the Fleet, for the preſent Information of the Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty, I confine my Communications chiefly, in this Diſpatch, to the Occurrences when in Preſence of the Enemy Yeſterday.

Finding, on my Return off of Breſt on the 19th paſt, that the French Fleet had, a few Days before, put to Sea; and receiving, on the ſame Evening, Advices from Rear-Admiral Montagu, I deemed it requiſite to endeavour to form a Junction with the Rear-Admiral as ſoon as poſſible, and proceeded immediately for the Station on which he meant to wait for the Return of the Venus.

But, having gained very credible Intelligence, on the 21ſt of the ſame Month, whereby I had Reaſon to ſuppoſe the French Fleet was then but a few Leagues farther to the Weſtward, the Courſe before ſteered was altered accordingly.

On the Morning of the 28th the Enemy were diſcovered far to Windward, and partial Actions were engaged with them that Evening and the next Day.

The Weather Gage having been obtained, in the Progreſs of the laſt mentioned Day, and the Fleet being in a Situation for bringing the Enemy to cloſe Action the 1ſt Inſtant, the Ships bore up together for that Purpoſe, between Seven and Eight o'Clock in the Morning.

The French, their Force conſiſting of Twenty-ſix Ships of the Line, oppoſed to His Majeſty's Fleet of Twenty-five (the Audacious having parted Company with the ſternmoſt Ship of the Enemy's Line, captured in the Night of the 28th) waited for the Action, and ſuſtained the Attack with their cuſtomary Reſolution.

In leſs than an Hour after the cloſe Action commenced in the Centre, the French Admiral, engaged by the Queen Charlotte, crowded off, and was followed by moſt of the Ships of his Van in Condition to carry Sail after him, leaving with us about Ten or Twelve of his crippled or totally diſmaſted Ships, excluſive of One ſunk in the Engagement. The Queen Charlotte had then loſt her Fore Topmaſt, and the Main Topmaſt fell over the Side very ſoon after.

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